

# Keys to Victory

A Clash of Clichés

By Dennis Knight

It's half time. Our team has not performed well and is down 42 points. But it's the closest half-time margin the team has faced in three seasons, so our coach is enjoying renewed enthusiasm and tenacity. He is getting set for his mid-game speech, and we can expect his Keys to Victory will be extra inspirational. Let's go to the locker room as Coach brings the boys together...

Alright, men, now listen up! It's been a rough first half. Now we gotta go back out there and take care of business. I told you all this morning that we we're taking this a game at a time. Well, boys, we didn't get 'er done, so forget about that. Now I'm telling you we gotta take this a half at a time!

That's a heap of points you boys spotted 'em. We've gotta take it right to them bunch of sorry losers. Being down 42 points ain't nothing. You've gotta let the game come to you.

So put your mistakes out of your mind. Don't be thinking too much. Do it like we taught you. Keep your head in the game. I want you all to be thinking at all times. Trust your instincts. React to the play; don't take time to think about it.

Now we've got to open up the passing lanes and we've got to open up the running lanes and we've got to control that old pumpkin. We're gonna put it all on the line. We've gotta execute the playbook. No gambling out there. Make plays on both side of the ball. It's decision time. Can't be afraid to take chances.

Play offense on defense. And I don't have to tell you that goes vice versa.

We're going to orchestrate ourselves a comeback! We've got a whole second half to go boys. That's two quarters. But remember, we still got thirty minutes. Shucks, 42 points ain't nothing. We're in no hurry. Whatever time it takes.

We've got to go mano a mano. Go out there and clean their clocks. We're gonna take it to them. We've got to make them come to us. Run like there's no tomorrow.

This is war, men. Take no prisoners. Caution to the wind. Batten down the hatches. Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes. All for one and one for all. It's how you play the game. Winning ain't everything, it's the only thing.

And remember, boys, have fun out there.